

COMPRESIÓN DE LECTURA - TASK 2 (1 x 7 = 7 marks)

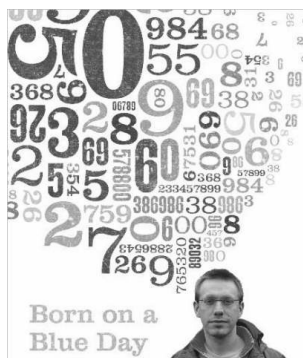
Read the text about Daniel Tammet. Then read through sentences 1 to 7 and choose the option (A, B or C) which best expresses the information in the text. Write the letter in the corresponding box on the right.

Question 0 has been completed as an example.

A MAGICIAN WITH NUMBERS

Daniel Tammet has an extraordinary gift for mathematics.

He can also speak 10 languages as well as his own invented language, "Mänti".



Daniel's mathematical abilities are so extraordinary that it took a long time for them to be recognised. He struggled at school. He got a B at Maths GCSE. He wasn't diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome until three years ago, at 25. Sooner would have been better "both for me and my parents".

"As a child I didn't speak very much. I used to put my fingers in my ears to feel the silence. It was hard for me to find my voice because I was, for so long, absorbed in my own world," says Daniel "I had to teach myself to look in somebody's eyes," he explains. "Before that, I used to look at their mouth, because it was the part of their face that was moving."

Daniel's condition brings him great riches: his visualisation of numbers means he can perform extraordinary mathematical achievements—Daniel's

world is a rich and strange one, where every number up to 10,000 has colour, texture and emotional resonance. More remarkable still, he has described it all in *Born on a Blue Day*, his memoir of his life with a rare form of Asperger's; consciousness-raising is part of his motivation for writing his book. "My condition is invisible otherwise."

Scientists at California's Center for Brain Studies were amazed when, two years ago, they discovered his facility for discerning prime numbers. They had assumed he must have been trained to do it. But to him, it is more like an instinctive process.

"The scientists and researchers come to me so I can help them design the parameters of their experiments," he says. It is important to Daniel that he uses his gifts responsibly, perhaps for science, perhaps for teaching: he is already devising a new system of visualisation to help with language learning and dyslexia.

Daniel was lonely. Forming relationships was difficult. "I was desperate for a friend and I used to lie in bed at night thinking about what it would be like. My younger brothers and sisters had friends and I used to watch them playing to try to work out what they did and how friendship worked. Then, I would have traded everything for normality".

Falling in love with Neil has changed everything. They have been together for six years. Now his emotional life is more like everyone else's. "Neil is very patient with me, and the routines I need to have to help with my anxieties," says Daniel. "I don't know what I'd do without him."

Generally, Daniel feels he is progressing all the time towards "outgrowing" his autism." He is getting steadily better at social interaction. "Every experience I have I add to my mental library and hopefully life should then get easier." I've learned that being different isn't necessarily a bad thing." In this, he seems to sum up the progress we all hope for.

Example:**0. Daniel's natural talent for mathematics ...**

- A** was acknowledged three years ago.
B took some time to be acknowledged.
C was recognised when he was born.

B	
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1. When Daniel was a child, ...

- A** he couldn't hear and had to read people's lips.
B he had to learn to make eye contact.
C he was quite extroverted.

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2. The book *Born on a Blue Day* ...

- A** is a remarkable way to teach Maths.
B is about Daniel's rich family background.
C is meant to increase awareness.

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3. Daniel's gift for mathematics ...

- A** is a natural ability to him.
B is the result of long practice.
C has required expert training.

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4. Daniel is determined to ...

- A** become a scientist.
B get into the teaching profession.
C put his talent to good purpose.

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5. When Daniel was very young he really wanted to ...

- A** make friends.
B play with his brother and sister's friends.
C understand his friends.

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6. Neil is so important for Daniel because ...

- A** he doesn't complain about Daniel's special needs.
B he was a friend from his childhood.
C they have similar interests and routines.

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7. In general Daniel ...

- A** complains about his condition.
B feels proud to be different.
C is changing for the better.

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COMPREENSIÓN DE LECTURA - TASK 3 (0.5 x 12 = 6 marks)

Read an excerpt from the book *How to be a Brit*. For questions 1 to 12 choose the best option from the list (A, B, C, etc.) to complete the missing information. Some words do not correspond to any gaps.

Question 0 has been completed as an example.

HOW TO BE A BRIT

An _____(0)_____ *manual for everyone who longs to attain True Britishness – a complete guide to the British Way of Life.*

IN ENGLAND * everything is the other way round.

On Sundays on the Continent even the poorest person puts on his best suit, tries to look respectable, and at the same time the life of the country becomes gay and _____(1)_____; in England even the richest peer or motor-manufacturer dresses in some peculiar rags, does not shave, and the country becomes dull and dreary. On the Continent there is one topic which should be _____(2)_____ - the weather; in England, if you do not repeat the phrase 'Lovely day, isn't it?' at least two hundred times a day, you are _____(3)_____ as a bit dull. On the Continent people use a fork as though a fork were a shovel; in England they _____(4)_____ it upside down and push everything - including peas - on top of it.

On the Continent stray cats are judged individually on their merit - some are loved, some are only respected; in England they are _____(5)_____ worshipped as in ancient Egypt. On the Continent people have good food; in England people have good table manners.

On the Continent public orators try to learn to speak fluently and smoothly; in England they _____(6)_____ a special course in Oxonian stuttering.

On the Continent almost every _____(7)_____ whether little or great has openly declared at one time or another that it is superior to all other nations; the English fight heroic wars to combat these dangerous ideas without ever mentioning which is *really* the most superior race in the world. Continental people are _____(8)_____ and touchy; the English take everything with an exquisite sense of humour - they are only _____(9)_____ if you tell them that they have no sense of humour. On the Continent the _____(10)_____ consists of a small percentage of criminals, a small percentage of honest people and the rest are a _____(11)_____ transition between the two; in England you find a small percentage of criminals and the rest are honest people. On the other hand, people on the Continent either tell you the truth or lie; in England they _____(12)_____ ever lie, but they would not dream of telling you the truth.

* When people say England, they sometimes mean Great Britain, sometimes the United Kingdom, sometimes the British Isles - but never England.

PUNTUACIÓN	/ 6
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A assist	E indispensable	I people	M slightly
B avoided	F loose	J population	N take
C cheerful	G nation	K regarded	O turn
D hardly	H offended	L sensitive	P universally

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
E												
✓												

